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**Attorney General Greg Stumbo and The Council on Postsecondary Education Issue an Alert to Students
Regarding Unofficial GED Testing Websites**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRANKFORT, KY (February 14, 2007) – Attorney General Greg Stumbo’s Office and the Council on Postsecondary Education-Kentucky Adult Education are today issuing a consumer alert to students to beware of misleading GED (General Educational Development) information available on the Internet.

Consumers are warned that many websites falsely claim to offer the GED diploma for a fee. Only a state may issue the GED diploma to people who meet the passing scores. The GED tests may not be taken online as claimed on these websites. The exam, which takes approximately seven hours to complete, is a paper and pencil test administered only at official GED test centers.

“People who are trying to obtain a GED are to be commended for furthering their education,” said Attorney General Greg Stumbo. “Unfortunately many are instead being victimized by websites that falsely claim that a GED can be obtained online. This is one more example of the dark side of the Internet. No matter how official a site may appear, students need to be made aware that a GED diploma can only be obtained through a written test.”

Many of the same misleading websites also offer GED instruction for a fee. People who choose to study through a website are still required to pass the Official Practice Test, a pre-GED test required by Kentucky regulation and administered free of charge at adult education centers in every Kentucky county.

“It is extremely unfortunate that these websites are preying upon Kentucky citizens who are trying to improve their lives through increased education,” stated Tom Layzell, Council president.

Kentucky Adult Education offers instruction online and at local adult education centers free of charge. More information is available at www.kyae.ky.gov/students.

The GED Test consists of a series of five tests that measure achievement in subject areas associated with a high school program of study. The GED test fee in Kentucky is \$40. The GED Testing Service of the American Council on Education makes these tests available and has strict policies about the administration of the tests. Each year, more than 800,000 GEDs are issued nationwide. In 2005-06, Kentucky Adult Education awarded 9,007 official GEDs.

Consumers who have concerns about GED websites can contact the Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-888-432-9257.

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